



July 19, 2007

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Cathy Welborn, Program Coordinator  
(804) 225-3132, [catherine.welborn@arts.virginia.gov](mailto:catherine.welborn@arts.virginia.gov)

## **VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS ANNOUNCES 2007-2008 GRANT AWARDS More than \$6.6 million allocated statewide**

**Richmond, VA:** The Virginia Commission for the Arts recently approved grants totaling more than \$6.6 million dollars for arts activities across the Commonwealth. Schools and school divisions, arts organizations, artists and units of local government across Virginia will benefit from funding through 11 different grant categories.

The Commission awarded grants totaling more than \$4.8 million to 202 non-profit arts organizations under its General Operating Support Program, an increase of nearly \$1.4 million over FY07. General Operating Support is designed to strengthen and expand the programs of established Virginia arts organizations. Applicants were evaluated on the basis of artistic excellence, effective management and the role the organization plays in the broader social, educational and economic areas of community life.

The Commission also approved 78 grants totaling \$227,200 through its Project Grant Program. This highly competitive program supports a wide variety of new or expanded initiatives and is open to any not-for-profit organization presenting the arts.

129 Virginia towns, counties, and cities received support totaling \$581,875 through the Local Government Challenge Grant Program. The localities will match these funds dollar for dollar or higher and then award the total to arts organizations in their jurisdictions. In FY07, these grants were the catalyst for approximately \$6 million in appropriations for arts programming across the state.

In an effort to enhance arts instruction in PK-12 schools, the Commission voted to triple funding in its Artist-in-Residency program. 26 schools, school divisions, and/or arts organizations throughout

Virginia were selected to receive matching funds of \$143,067 for multi-day artist residencies. Artists work with students and teachers, interact with the community-at-large and are allowed time for work on their art form. Each year thousands of Virginia students benefit from the special resources and training, as well as the opportunity to work with exceptional professional artists through this program.

Matching funds will also be made available for non-profit organizations and educational institutions to present Virginia touring artists from the Commission's Tour Directory. The artists in the Tour Directory offer performances in various performance disciplines, including ballet and modern dance, blues and folk music, jazz, classical, puppetry, storytelling, and theatre. Workshops, lecture/demonstrations, post-performance question and answer sessions are also available through this program. Many of the artists offer programs designed to correlate with Virginia's Standards of Learning.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts is the state agency that supports the arts through funding from the Virginia General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Commission distributes grant awards to artists, arts and other not-for-profit organizations, educational institutions, educators and local governments, and provides technical assistance in arts management. For further information about the Commission and its programs, contact the Virginia Commission for the Arts, 223 Governor Street, Richmond, VA 23219-2010; 804-225-3132; [arts@arts.virginia.gov](mailto:arts@arts.virginia.gov); [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov)

Enc: FY08 Grant Award List

###